

ETERNAL SECURITY: ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

THE PERSISTENCE OF THE SAINTS

"Once Saved - Always Saved"

The issue of Eternal Security has to do with a proper Biblical understanding of salvation and what has happened (past completed action) to those who believe. The only way to gain the assurance of eternal life (security) is to study the entire scope of terminology that Scripture uses regarding salvation. God's promises of salvation and eternal life are unconditional - not based upon our works of performance to gain merit, earn or deserve that which is a free gift (Rom.6:23; Eph.2:8-9; Titus 3:5). Every statement that is made, I have backed up with Scriptural references. This means that careful study of the verses and thinking them through on your own will bring you to the same understanding. God's Spirit indwells believers for the purpose of illuminating our minds to His revelation. Prayerfully depend on Him to do so as you look up the verses and record your observations. We first of all need to understand that:

SALVATION DOES NOT DEPEND ON US

1. Salvation is according to God, according to His eternal purpose, and is an Eternal Covenant!

Eph.1:5,11
Rom.8:1,29,30
John 6:37-40
John 17

2. Salvation did not originate with man.

John 6:37,45
John 1:13
Rom.8:28-30
Eph.2:8-10
James 1:18

3. Salvation involves a permanent change in man's spiritual state/condition.

Rom.5:1-10
Rom.6:1-14
Eph.1:6-13
Eph.2:1-10,19
1 Cor.1:2
1 Cor.6:11
Gal.3:26

It is utterly and absolutely impossible that the sentence of Divine Judgment should ever be revoked or reversed." - A.W.Pink.

4. Salvation is by faith in Christ ALONE. What that means is a transferring of our trust from ourselves to Christ and His finished work on the cross.

John 3:16
John 14:6
John 19:30
Rom.3:22-28
2 Cor. 5:21
Eph.2:8-9

(see study on "How to Become A Christian")

So the assurance of eternal life is not based upon me, my worthiness, my works, my ability, or even my faith because even that is a gift (Eph.2:8-9). Therefore, I'm going to heaven not because of what I've done or what I am but because of Christ - in spite of what I am! God does not accept us on the basis of our goodness, nor does He keep us on the basis of our goodness. The whole book of Galatians was written to correct the misconception that the Christian life began by grace and then proceeds by human works. It begins, continues, and is completed by God's grace. We don't begin in the Spirit and then proceed in the flesh (Gal.3:1-3). It's a subtle, but great

perversion of faith in Christ and Christianity to fall into a flesh-works system of maintaining or keeping our eternal salvation. Please read Gal.2:16 - 3:14. If we had to keep ourselves, then we would have to be our own Savior to a great degree! Complete salvation, not part (past, present deliverance, and future glorification), is a free gift by the grace of God and you can't boast about a free gift, you can only be thankful for it and give Him all the glory and praise.

Therefore, once God has worked His salvation in the life of a believer:

- (1) God promises to keep us and work out His holy purpose in our lives.

2 Tim.1:12	Rom.8:27-39	Heb.10:10,14
John 6:37-40	Rom.14:4	1 Pet.1:5
John 10:28-29	Eph.2:10	Jude 24
John 17:10-12	Phil.1:6	Phil.2:13

- (2) A true believer will not continue to live in sin. Eternal security is not license to sin either, but rather freedom to love and serve Christ because of being set free from it! Holy living is out of gratitude for His gift of eternal life.

Rom.6:1-18	1 Jn.3:7-14	2 Peter 2:9
1 Cor.10:13		

- (3) A true believer will not "stop believing" either. If someone "stops believing" it obviously was never saving faith but a "temporal faith." 1 Jn.2:18-19.

Jude 24	1 Jn.5:1-5	2 Tim.2:13	1 Thess.5:24
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WHAT IF A TRUE BELIEVER SINS?

1. We have an Advocate with the Father (an Intercessor, High Priest, Jesus Christ).

John 17:1-26	Heb.7:23-25	Matt.18:12-14
Rom.8:34	1 Jn.2:1-2	Lk.22:31

2. We are told we are to confess, repent, and turn back to the Truth.

Prov.28:13	James 4:7-10
2 Chron.7:14	1 Jn.1:5-10

(see study of "Biblical Confession and Repentance")

If a "true believer" strays away from the Truth and continues in sin, the Bible clearly reveals that one of 3 things will happen:

1. He can expect God's intervention through chastening.

Ps.32:3-5
 Ps.119:75
 Prov.3:12
 1 Cor.11:30-32
 Heb.12:5-11
 Rev.3:19

(see study "Chastening of the Lord" for detailed Scriptural study)

2. He can be restored fully.

2 Chron.7:14	Gal.6:1
Prov.28:13	Js.5:19-20
Matt.18:15-22	1 Jn.1:9
2 Cor.2:5-11	Matt.18:12-14

3. He will definitely lose "rewards" (also see "Crowns"; 1 Thess.2:19-20; Js.1:12;

1 Cor.3:12-15
 1 Cor.9:24-27
 Dan.12:3; 2 Tim.4:8; 1 Pet.5:2-4; 2 Tim.4:1,2
 Acts 20:26-28; Prov.11:30).

4. He may be taken out permanently (physical death).

Prov.23:14

John.15:6 ("thrown away as a branch")

1 Cor.5:1-5 ("delivered over to Satan") yet will still go to heaven

1 Cor.11:30

1 Tim.1:20

Heb.6:4-8 ("impossible to renew them again to repentance")

Js.5:19-20

1 Jn.5:16 ("the sin unto death")

Rev.2:5 ("I will remove your lampstand")

While these may be difficult passages - they still do not say one will lose their salvation! (no verse does). Seen in the context and in comparison with other Scriptures these verses are best understood in connection with the chastening work of God toward His children. The specifically cited phrases above do not mean that one has lost their salvation because that is an eternally secured position in Christ. However, it does mean that a person who is saved and continues unrepentantly in willful sin after the chastening of God, the attempted admonition and restorative process of other believers, and church discipline (Matt.18:15-20), that such a one refusing to get right with God will be considered by God worthless (Heb.6:8), fruitless (Jn.15:6), useless, dead (Js.2:17-18), and therefore, "delivered over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh that their spirit may be saved." They still go to heaven "as by fire" (1 Cor.3:15) (by the skin of their teeth) - but miserably and without honor or reward.

If none of these three things happen then they were never really saved in the first place! Is that judging? Only with righteous judgment as Jesus said in Jn.7:24, and with Scriptural criteria which God has revealed so that we don't ignorantly and undiscerningly "infect" the Body of Christ with antichrist! Look at John 2:18-19 (key verse that says they were never saved in the first place!)

SCRIPTURAL REASONS WHY WE WON'T LOSE OUR SALVATION

1. Eternal life is not temporal "life" - nor is it temporary; it is everlasting life. Go through the gospel of John and circle every place eternal life is mentioned. It is clearly taught that we do have it in Christ. Eternal means forever and if we could lose it then that means it would have an end and wouldn't be a possession that we would have forever!

2. Our salvation is not based on our works or our performance. It is based on Jesus Christ's finished substitutionary, sacrificial work on the cross. We cannot earn salvation/eternal life by our works, nor can our works lose it. If our work could lose it or alter the quality of eternal life, then:

- (1) We could unsave what God has "saved to the uttermost." Heb.7:25.
- (2) We would be as powerful as God.
- (3) We would also be able to earn this "eternal" gift back again and maintain it by being "good enough."

Rom.3:22-28.

3. He died once and for all to pay for all the sins of His people. His death is the final payment for sin and we can't change it. It is settled forever in heaven. (See #22). Matt.1:21 Heb.10:10-14

Rom.8:14-17 Gal.3:26-28

In Christ you have as much chance of losing your salvation as Christ has of getting expelled from the Trinity.

4. We've been united with Christ (Eph.2:13; 1 Cor.6:15).

Our position in Christ means:

- No more condemnation (Rom.8:1).
- No more wrath (Rom.5:9; 1 Thess.1:10).
- No more death - passed into life (Jn.3:36; 5:24).
- Satan can't touch us (1 Jn.4:4,5).
- We will never perish (Jn.3:16).

5. We've been sanctified forever! - "for all time"(past, present and future), eternally secure! Read it. (Heb.10:14)

6. We've been born again (regenerated), "born from above", eternal life has been imparted to us. A new spiritual birth has taken place.

Jn.1:12-13

1 Jn.3:2

Jn.3:1-18

1 Jn.5:1

2 Cor.5:17

Titus 3:5

2 Cor.6:18

1 Pet.1:23

It is inconsistent to believe that physical birth can be reversed or that my children could all of a sudden be born one minute, unborn, then born again the next. The same is true regarding spiritual rebirth. It is the judicial act of God by which He makes the believing sinner alive, giving them His life, indwelling them with His Spirit, and giving them new eternal life. Therefore, once God gives birth spiritually to a believer, one could not all of a sudden reverse it and be unborn. My children have been physically born as a result of a physical union between husband and wife. No matter what they ever chose to do, they could never be any less my children, and we their parents. They will always be my children because of a physical union which resulted in their becoming "family" - the same flesh and blood. They can't change it no matter what happens.

God's spiritual union is an eternal covenant with His people and He would no more disown His children than He would Jesus Christ, His own Son. Why? Because of spiritual rebirth, which places us in Christ. I'm in Him and He's in me. Nothing can change that spiritual family relationship. We're hidden in Christ in God! (Col.3:3) and that's double security!

7. We've been placed into Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (a one time act at the moment one puts their trust in Christ alone for their salvation). 1 Cor.12:13 -"placed into the spiritual body of Christ."

8. We've been justified in God's sight. This means permanently, totally, completely, and forever declared righteous in Christ (our position). (However, our practice may not live up to this spiritual fact totally) but it still doesn't change what God has declared in His Word.

Rom.3:23-25

Rom.5:1

Rom.5:9-10

1 Cor.6:11

Gal.2:16

Titus 3:7

9. We've been indwelt by God's Spirit.

Jn.14:16-17

Eph.1:14

Rom.8:9

Gal.4:6

1 Cor.3:16

1 Cor.6:19-20

10. We've been sealed by God's Spirit until we are either absent from the body (dead) or caught up in the air to be with Christ in heaven.

2 Cor.1:22

2 Tim.2:19

Eph.1:12-13

Eph.4:30 (The Aorist tense indicates that it happened in a single point moment of time).

Incidentally, a "SEAL" was an official authorization or stamp, a mark or ownership - security.

11. We've been given a permanent access to God through Christ.

Rom.5:1-5
Eph.2:18
Heb.4:16
Heb.10:19-22

12. We've been made citizens of heaven, "transferred from the kingdom of darkness" once and for all! "from" - Greek word "EK" meaning "out of"

Eph.2:6
Eph.2:19
Phil.3:20
Col.1:13
Col.3:1

13. We've already received eternal life! When we received Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we "were passed from death and judgment unto life!" and we shall never perish.

Jn.3:15-16
Jn.5:24
Jn.10:28
Jn.20:31
1 Jn.5:12

14. We've already been blessed with every spiritual blessing.

Eph.1:3

15. We've been given a sure, secure foundation - not based on ourselves!

1 Cor.3:11
Eph.2:20
2 Tim.2:19

16. We've been given a "New Position." (Greek verb tense - past completed action)

Rom.6:18
Rom.6:22
1 Cor.6:11
Jn.14:20
Eph.4:6
1 Thes.1:1

17. We've been written in the Book of Life in heaven.

Luke 10:20

18. We've been delivered from condemnation.

Jn.3:18
Jn.5:24
Rom.8:1
1 Cor.11:32

19. We've been forgiven, ALL our sins have been covered over (past, present, and future).

Eph.1:7
Eph.4:32
Col.2:13
Col.3:13
1 Jn.2:1-2
1 Jn.2:12

20. We've been reconciled to God through Christ's death. The Greek word literally means a complete change from a condition of enmity to a position of friendship.

Rom.5:6-11
2 Cor.5:17-21
Col.1:19-22

21. We've been redeemed. God wouldn't sell back to Satan what He has purchased for Himself through Christ's blood. We are God's purchased "possession" - we belong to Him! (1 Cor.6:19-20)

Rom.3:24
Gal.4:5,7
Eph.1:7
Heb.9:12-18,28

Titus 2:14
1 Pet.1:18-19

22. We've had our sins judged and paid for, once and for all. (See #3)

Rom.4:25
Eph.1:7
Heb.7:27
Heb.9:12,26
Heb.10:10-12
1 Pet.2:24
1 Pet.3:18

23. We've been made acceptable to God, not on the basis of our own performance/works.

Rom.3:22
1 Cor.1:2
1 Cor.6:11
2 Cor.5:21
Eph.1:6
Phil.3:9
Heb.10:14
Eph.5:27

24. We've been guaranteed that He won't lose us or let us "lose ourselves."

Jn.6:39
Jn.10:27-30
Jude 24
Jn.17:11,12,15
Jn.18:9

25. We've been made joint heirs with Christ to receive the promise of the eternal inheritance!

Rom.8:7
Eph.1:14
Col.3:24
Heb.9:15
1 Pet.1:4

26. We've been chosen by Him before the foundation of the world (eternally secure before we were even born!) He knew everything we were and ever would be and it's not based on our goodness.

John 6:44
John 15:16
Eph.1:3-9
1 Thes.1:1
2 Thes.2:13-14

27. We've been adopted, made spiritual children of God's family eternally, from the time of salvation on.

Eph.1:4-5
1 Jn.3:1-2

28. We've been guaranteed that He will protect us. What kind of protection would that be if we could lose our salvation?

2 Tim.1:12
1 Jn.4:4
1 Jn.5:18
Jude 24

36. We've been given so many other truths that clearly teach that assurance and security is a reality for every child of God.

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| Jn.6:39,47 | Col.1:12,13 |
| Jn.14:19 | Col.3:3-4 |
| Jn.17:11 | Gal.3:25 |
| Deut.31:6 | Eph.2:19 |
| Jer.31:3 | Eph.1:3-14 |
| Rom.6:14 | Heb.10:10-14 |
| Rom.7:4,6 | Heb.13:5 |
| Rom.8:1 | 2 Tim.1:12 |
| Rom.8:31-34, 38-39 | 1 Jn.3:1, 16, 24 |
| Rom.10:12 | 1 Jn.4:9-10 |
| Rom.14:4 | 1 Jn.4:13 |
| Rom.5:10 | 1 Jn.5:11-13 |

If these things were not true,... then no one would ever know if they would go to heaven until they died, because one would continually be questioning, "Am I believing enough or sinning too much, and will I make it?"

CONCLUSION

The power and grace of God saves us and keeps us, it wouldn't be "grace" if we had to keep ourselves saved.

The promise of God means no condemnation and eternal life, it wouldn't be eternal life if we could "stop" having it.

The assurance of eternal life is not based on us or our feelings, it's based on the facts of God's Word. God is not a liar - so take Him at His word.

Therefore, the grounds of our assurance and eternal security is based upon:

1. The unconditional and universal promise of Almighty God. See John 6:37 and Rev.22:17.
2. The love of God. Because God loves those whom He has purchased by blood and because this love is stronger than death and more powerful than the hosts of darkness, the believer can rest assured that when he believes in Christ he is saved. See Rom.8:31-39.
3. The perfect, finished work of Jesus and His continuous intercession for the believer. It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Rom.8:34)
4. The promise of our Lord that none of those who trust in Him shall be lost. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28) That verse clearly says that no man will be able to alter that position!
5. The witness of the Holy Spirit as a seal, indwelling the believer. "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Rom.5:5). "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom.8:16; Eph.1:12-13).
6. The sanctifying work that He will complete. "He has sanctified us forever." (Heb.10:14; Phil.1:6).
7. The promise that He will keep us from falling! "You who are protected by the power of God." (1 Pet.1:5; Jude 24).

God said it - - I believe it - - and that settles it.

We not only know that we have eternal life, but we know that we know!

And out of gratitude for so great a salvation, what kind of people ought we to be?

As to God of His sovereignty! He also takes away from giving Him all the praise and glory and would mean that man gets the credit for doing something to earn his way to heaven or to at least hold on to it. We've been made righteous in Him.

Thy works, not mine, O Christ,
 Speak gladness to this heart;
 They tell me all is done;
 They bid my fear depart.

To whom save Thee,
 Who can alone
 For sin atone,
 Lord, shall I flee!

Thy pains, not mine, O Christ,
 Upon the shameful tree
 Have paid the law's full price
 And purchased peace for me.

Thy tears, not mine, O Christ,
 Have wept my guilt away;
 Into a blessed day.

Thy bonds, not mine, O Christ,
 Unbind me of my chain.
 And break my prison-doors,
 Ne'er to be barred again.

Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ,
 Can heal my bruised soul;
 Thy stripes, not mine, contain
 The balm that makes me whole.

Thy blood, not mine, O Christ,
 Thy blood so freely spilt
 Can blanch my blackest stains,
 And purge away my guilt.

Thy cross, not mine, O Christ,
 Has borne the awful load
 Of sins, that none in heaven
 Or earth could bear, but God.

Thy death, not mine, O Christ,
 Has paid the ransom due;
 Ten thousand deaths like mine,
 Would have been all too few.

Thy righteousness, O Christ,
 Alone can cover me;
 No righteousness avails
 Save that which is of Thee.

Thy righteousness alone
 Can clothe and beautify;
 I wrap it round my soul;
 In this I'll live and die.

FOR FURTHER STUDY REFERENCES AVAILABLE (and some used in this study) see:

BACKSLIDING: What Happens When One Strays From the Truth?

CHASTENING: How God Deals With His Children

SOTERIOLOGY: The Doctrine of Salvation - Dr. Sam Fowler

ETERNAL SECURITY: The Assurance of Our Destiny - Dr. Charles Swindoll

ETERNAL SECURITY - M.R. DeHaan MD

THE SECURITY OF SALVATION (Romans 5) - Dr. John MacArthur

SECURITY IN THE SPIRIT (Romans 8) - Dr. John MacArthur

ROMANS: Exposition of Chapter 5 - D. Martin Lloyd-Jones

The following verses show that God's people are given *eternal life* the moment they believe. They are *kept by God's power* through faith and *nothing can separate them from His love*. They have been sealed with the Holy Spirit who has been given as the *guarantee* of their salvation, and they are thus assured of an eternal inheritance.

Isaiah 43:1-3: But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

Isaiah 54:10: "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you."

Jeremiah 32:40: "I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them; and I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me."

Matthew 18:12-14: "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that *one* of these little ones should perish."

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have *eternal life*.

John 3:36: He who believes in the Son has *eternal life* . . .

John 5:24: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me has *eternal life*; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

John 6:35-40: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me; and *him who comes to me I will not cast out*. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should *lose nothing* of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have *eternal life*; and I will raise him up at the last day."

I Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

II Corinthians 4:14,17: . . . knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence . . . For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

Ephesians 1:5,13,14: He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. . . In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the *guarantee* of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 4:30: And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Colossians 3:3,4: For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

I Thessalonians 5:23,24: May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

II Timothy 4:18: The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 9:12,15: . . . he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an *eternal redemption* . . . Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the *promised eternal inheritance*, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Hebrews 10:14: For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

John 6:47: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has *eternal life*."

John 10:27-30: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them *eternal life*, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 17:11,12,15: "And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in thy name which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled . . . I do not pray that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil one."

Romans 6:8-10: But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Romans 8:1: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:29,30: For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:35-39: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Corinthians 1:7-9: . . . so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hebrews 12:28: Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.

I Peter 1:3-6: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I John 2:19,26: They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us . . . And this is what he has promised us, *eternal life*.

I John 5:4,11-13, 20: For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith . . . And this is the testimony, that God gave us *eternal life*, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son has not life. I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have *eternal life* . . . And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Jude 1: To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.

Jude 24,25: Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.